

Notices of Books.

Baths and Washhouses: Statement of the Proceedings of the Committee appointed to promote their Establishment for the Labouring Classes. London: Effingham Wilson.

This "statement" includes a report which has been drawn up by Mr. P. Baly, the engineer to the committee, upon the buildings erected and erecting, with plans, &c. and is intended to supply information to such as wish to establish baths and washhouses. The committee show, as the result of their exertions that "above 2,800,000 baths have been given at the various metropolitan establishments, at a cost of from 1d. to 6d. each, in five years (the number in 1847 having been 143,744, and in 1851, having been 742,026); that accommodation, sufficient to give more than 2,000,000 baths in a year, at these prices, is now provided in London; that the linen of above 2,000,000 persons has been washed, dried, and partially ironed at these establishments; and that baths and washhouses are now built or building in almost every large town in England."

The good they have done we are quite willing to admit and praise them for; but when they refer to the "high testimony" paid to the economical arrangement of their establishment by the French and Belgian engineers, who were sent to this country to report upon them by their respective governments, they must surely have felt the satire. Mr. Baly alludes to the impression that a "needlessly profuse expenditure" has been indulged in by the committee, "for the sake of correcting it," but does not make good this promise. It is no reply whatever to the charge to say that their plans have received general approval. We are quite willing, however, to give the committee the advantage of the fact that when they "undertook the erection of the Model Establishment, the whole plan of the building, its apparatus and fittings, was entirely to be invented."

The illustrations comprise, plan and elevation of an establishment to cost 8,500*l.*; plan of one to cost 4,000*l.*; and of another, 2,000*l.*; with a drawing showing the arrangement of a washing and drying compartment.

Directions for introducing the first Steps of Elementary Drawing in Schools and among Workmen: with Lists of Materials, Objects, and Models. By the Author of "Drawing for Young Children," &c. Chapman and Hall, 193, Piccadilly. 1852.

This little book has been prepared and published at the request of the Council of the Society of Arts. It points out the errors of the usual mode of teaching children and workmen how to draw, and the methods which the author thinks ought to be adopted, together with other information necessary to enable teachers or schoolmasters who have not learnt drawing themselves to superintend the lessons of pupils. Besides a chapter on materials and on simple objects for drawing models in elementary instruction, the book also contains specimens of drawing papers of various colours and qualities, and some remarks on drawing copies.

USE THE MINUTES.—Is it asked, says Channing, how can the labouring man find time for self-culture? I answer that an earnest purpose finds time, or makes time. It seizes on spare moments, and turns fragments to golden account. A man who follows his calling with industry and spirit, and uses his earnings economically, will always have some portion of the day at command. And it is astonishing how fruitful of improvement a short season becomes, when eagerly seized and faithfully used. It has often been observed, that those who have the most time at their disposal profit by it the least. A single hour in the day, steadily given to the study of some interesting subject, brings unexpected accumulations of knowledge.

* Shown, as they say, amongst other things, by the scrupulous adoption of their plans by others without acknowledgment. The committee gibbet Mr. Newland, of Liverpool, as an example.

Miscellanea.

ENGLAND'S WANT.

England! thou art not yet full free!
Thy people's cry is heard from thee:
A moral cry,—a social wail,
Is borne along the silent gale.

Physical ills, till purged away,
Darken the noonday of thy day.
Reform in temporal ills ye need,
'Ere Nature's ground is fit for seed.

Thy people's ills must have thy care;
Immoral nature lingers there;
Fever, crime, disease, and woe,
Handmaids of FILTH, in hand they go.

Housed in filth, the soul is cursed;
In filth the mind is foully nursed;
In filth the moral nature's filled;
From filth, thy justice courts are filled.

Can we then wonder Nature's way
Is hidden from the light of day?
The light of Nature in the mind,
Lost in half the human kind?

Strange contrast! Though strange 'tis true;
Luxury and woe together grew,
Under one shade; beneath one sun,
Their race began, their course was run.

Then say not yet that England's free,
Though mistress e'en of land and sea.
The Plague that lately left our shore,
May swallow yet ten thousand more.

But Heaven grant that warnings past,
May rouse our energies at last;
And evils not beyond our way,
Oh! give us heart to purge away.

W. W.

RAILWAY MATTERS.—A "Great Western and City Junction Railway Company" has been projected, for the purpose of giving the Great Western Company a City terminus. Two of the Great Western directors have been placed upon the board. It is proposed that the line should commence at the Great Western Railway station, at Paddington, then through certain meadows to Kilburn, passing over the Edgware-road at that place, and thence stretching across to the Finchley-road, and in the direction of Haverstock-hill, effecting a junction ultimately with the East and West India Dock Railway at Kentish-town.—The library of the "London and North-Western Railway Library and Literary Association," to the support of which the London and North-Western board of directors have subscribed one hundred guineas, will be opened for the circulation of books on 31st instant.—On Wednesday fortnight, a bridge over the Bolton and Blackburn section of the Lancashire and Yorkshire lines of railway fell in, after sixteen head of cattle had just passed.

THE BOMERANG PROPELLER.—A trial of this propeller has been made by its inventor, Sir Thomas Mitchell, at Sydney; and the local *Herald* thus reports the result:—"So soon as the *Keera* got into her direct course, it was found that her speed surpassed any which she had hitherto attained on this coast. Between Pinchgut and Bradley's Head, the distance, 2,099 yards, was performed in 6m. 10s. Greater speed, however, was soon afterwards attained; and a scientific gentleman, who has recently arrived from England, drew our attention to the appearance of the water near the propeller; which, instead of flowing in towards the stern to be disturbed there as in other screws, allowed the propeller to work through it very quietly. About this time the strokes of the piston were sixty-two per minute, and we must particularly direct attention to the fact, that with the English screw in, the engines of the *Keera* have very seldom, indeed, been got to work up to fifty. This serves to prove the freedom of the Bomerang Propeller from lateral resistance; whilst the greater speed attained with a surface some 268 inches less than the English one proves, we submit, beyond doubt, the efficiency of the Bomerang form as an instrument of propulsion. We must further observe that the pressure on the boiler never exceeded ten pounds to the square inch. In returning to Sydney, great care was taken to observe the time. The *Keera's* speed was fully equal to twelve knots an hour; and this against a rather strong head-wind and tide. The slip was only 2½ per cent. supposing the strokes of the piston to have averaged 60 per

minute." It is a remarkable circumstance, pointed out by Sir Thomas Mitchell, that the Bomerang was used in ancient Egypt for the main purpose for which the aborigines of Australia use it; namely, to kill ducks. This, he remarks, was plainly shown in some of the paintings in the tombs of Thebes, especially in one engraved in Wilkinson's *Egypt*; and also that Egyptian Bomerangs made of hard wood, about 1½ or 2 inches broad, curved, and about two feet long, are still to be seen in museums in Europe, having been found by explorers among the tombs of Thebes. Sir Thomas also observes that the "throwing stick" of the ancient Arab was a missile of the same nature as the Bomerang.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERY WATERWORKS.—From a discursive article on the rapid progress, and proposed extensions of these works in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, we extract the following particulars. The works have been in operation for three years, and now supply a population of 85,000, scattered over an area of nearly twenty square miles. The company started with a paid-up capital of 60,000*l.*, afterwards increased to 70,000*l.*, and already pays a dividend of six per cent. Originally only thirty-five miles of mains were contemplated, yet their actual length is now seventy miles; and by the proposed extensions there will be ten miles more. Four years ago the quantity of water supplied by the old waterworks at Hanley and Longton was about 400,000 gallons per day. Now, two millions of gallons are supplied daily to the entire district of the potteries and Newcastle with Norton and Smallthorpe, being at the rate of twenty-two gallons per head per day for all purposes, for a population of 85,000—the average cost per house being only about two-pence-farthing per week. Although the capital of the company has been increased, the several portions of the work have been executed for nearly 10,000*l.* less than the original estimate, the additional capital having been devoted to extending the public accommodation. A further augmentation of capital is now intended, for the purpose of enabling the company to put down another engine, cover in the reservoirs, and include in the area of supply all the new suburbs of the Potteries called into existence by the amazing increase of building, with the villages of Bucknall, Sandyford, Gidley, Kidsgrove, Chesterton, and Knutton, and the intermediate places; so that whatever quantity of water may be required for domestic, sanitary, or manufacturing purposes for generations to come, all may be ready by merely putting down additional service-pipes. When the works now in contemplation are fully completed, the company will be able to supply above four and a half millions of gallons daily of pure, soft, spring water, of only nine degrees of hardness, equal to a supply of twenty gallons per head daily to a population of 225,000.

VALUE OF LAND IN THE ENVIRONS OF THE METROPOLIS.—The Putney College Estate, comprising eighteen acres of freehold land fronting the river, close to Putney-bridge, has been purchased by the new land society, the "Conservative," for the purposes of allotment to members. It may be expected, therefore, in the course of a short time, that the town of Putney will be extended in this direction, which will render still more necessary the carrying out the proposed new bridge and steam-boat pier in connection with it. The price the society have paid for this site is, we understand, 11,900*l.*, which, with the amounts realised by Messrs. Chinnock and Galworthy (the auctioneers) from the sales of the materials of two mansions pulled down, makes upwards of 15,000*l.* for the entire property, being considerably more than the sum for which it might have been purchased at the late auction.

REGENT'S CANAL.—At the half-yearly meeting of the Regent's Canal Company, held on Wednesday in last week, a dividend of 8s. 6d. per share was declared. A proposal to raise 430,000*l.* for new works was carried by a majority of only one.

IMMENSE BOILER-PLATES.—At Leeds, some plates weighing each, when finished, upwards of 1 ton 10 cwt. were lately rolled.